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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MAN SENTENCED
IN BANKRUPTCY FRAUD AND PERJURY CASE**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney, announced today that David Hughes, age 55, of Fort Washington, Maryland, was sentenced to 46 months imprisonment by U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte as a result of his conviction for bankruptcy fraud and perjury offenses. Judge Messitte also placed Hughes on supervised release for three years following his prison sentence and ordered him to pay a \$10,000 fine and \$500 in special assessment fees.

Hughes was indicted on the following five felony counts on February 13, 2002 and convicted of all counts by a jury on September 9, 2002: aiding and abetting the filing of false bankruptcy schedules; concealing property belonging to a bankruptcy estate; fraudulent transfer of the bankruptcy estate's property; and two counts of perjury for lying under oath to a bankruptcy judge.

According to the evidence presented to the jury, Hughes was married to Norma Gerstenfeld-Hughes who had inherited about \$1 million worth of antique furniture, silver, china, artwork, and the like from her father's estate. In October 1997, Gerstenfeld-Hughes filed a

Chapter 11 bankruptcy. On November 21, 1997, Hughes assisted Gerstenfeld-Hughes in filing bankruptcy schedules which stated that her household goods and furnishings totaled less than \$2,000 and that she did not possess any pictures, art objects, antiques and other collectibles. During the next two years, Hughes and Gerstenfeld-Hughes never disclosed the valuable furniture and antiques.

The Chapter 11 trustee appointed to administer the bankruptcy estate learned about auctions by Hughes and Gerstenfeld-Hughes in 1999 and 2000 of a desk which sold for \$90,000 and many lesser items which collectively sold for approximately \$40,000. During the bankruptcy court proceedings that followed, Hughes committed perjury on two separate occasions before U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Duncan Keir.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stuart Berman.